





whom the Observatory was originally

From the correspondence, we learn that the references to the Committee was limited to 'the system adopted at the Observatory of issuing meteorological reports and furnishing weather forecasts.' It is to be regretted the Committee was not empowered to inquire into the whole system of working the Observatory, with a view to increased efficiency and to decreased expenditure. The Committee, as far as they were concerned, might as well have been a body of appointing the Director of the Observatory as President of the Committee. From the moment that was done the Committee was damned. We protested as energetically as we could against this; we predicted failure, and our predictions have been more than verified, though we say so with a certain degree of regret. Dr Dobrook from the start showed all the hyperbolic eccentricities which totally unfit him for the Chairmanship of any Committee of Inquiry, and more especially of a Committee enquiring into the working of a section of the institution over which some freak of chance—we could not honestly say Providence—has placed him. The symptoms, though, as the bankers to twist the points having in view only the logical statements he advances—to all them nothing worse; the wholly irrelevant references he makes to extraneous matters, such as Captain Tillet's opinion on the management of a vessel on a typhoon, are simply ridiculous coming from a professor of science to whom exactitude is supposed to be a first principle. It all goes to show how grossly incompetent he was to preside over the Committee. We think this error is apparent at last to His Excellency, who cannot be flattered on his selection of a Chairman. The doctor appears to be piqued particularly with Captain Tillet, doubtless on account of his own government's somewhat unfortunate policy. Dr Dobrook's lecture on maritime officers on 'How to equip a ship on a typhoon,' has the *tu quoque* argument that the members of the Committee were nautical men, and, therefore, unacquainted with the subject of meteorology could not be applied in this instance. Dr Dobrook is as ignorant of the abilities of marine officers—intelligent shipmasters, if he likes the phrase better—as he is of the manoeuvring of a vessel in a typhoon, if he imagines the nautical gentlemen who formed the majority of the Committee are without a knowledge of the science of meteorology. He reminds us of the abstracted philosopher in Bulwer Lytton's novel who could not see beyond his own nose. Whether he is culpably ignorant of what goes on around him in this work-a-day world, or he is impeaching the knowledge and capabilities of his colleagues on a negligible matter, we do distinctly venture to think the latter. From first to last his letter to the Colonial Secretary, under date of September 30, is a silly, peevish production. Leaving out of the question the inaccuracies it contains it would be interesting to have his opinions of local shipmasters on this statement.—Seamen have great confidence in my warnings and obey them always implicitly while in and when leaving this Harbour.' Assuming the statement to be correct, and we have no desire, if it pleases Dr Dobrook's sanity, to deny its truth, is this not the strongest argument that could be used for having effect to the prayer of the petitioners for the amplification of this important information and a wider and more expeditious dissemination of it to the whole of the shipping community? If Dr Dobrook would only see it, the removal of all this agitation is not for the humiliation of Dr Dobrook and the abolition of the Observatory, but for the extension of what should be a useful institution, with enlarged opportunities for the adulation and glorification of the man who is conferring such vast benefits upon a grateful community. The minutes of the three meetings held by the Committee are interesting in showing how the Inquiry was so conducted under the presidency of Dr Dobrook. He never made greater mistake than when he asked for their publication. With the facts disclosed therein we have no intention of dealing. Only one thing we would point out in this connection; the terms and attitude of the Chairman towards all queries made by the members of the Committee—the rudimentary explanations he gave to enable them to understand the first principles of issuing weather forecasts. It seems to have regarded the Committee as antagonistic, and to have made up his mind to belittle their knowledge of meteorological science and all that pertains to the issue of weather forecasts. He, in point of fact, says—

I saw Sir Ormrod,  
When I gave my lips to dog bark."

It is at least something to know that the Committee were not knowledge-poseing dogs, and can still be magnanimous. Dr Dora does not conclude his letter to the Colonial Secretary in these terms:—'There is no objection to another Committee to name the subjects as long as I act as chairman'? It is satisfactory to observe that though the Committee is dissolved the subject it was appointed to consider was not altogether dropped into the waste-paper-basket of oblivion. The Director wisely ignored in the final scheme, which is to all intents and purposes what we have all along proposed—the delegation of the consideration of the subject of issuing meteorological reports and furnishing weather forecasts to an independent Committee. This means that the original Committee—minus Dr Dora—may consider the subject and present its suggestions, which His Excellency promises to consider with a view to practical application. Had this been done originally much human and human patience would have been saved, the irritation set up between the Committee and the Director of the Observatory might have been avoided, and the Governor would have spared the odium inevitable on loss of equity.







## Mails.

NORTHERN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP  
AND RAILROAD COMPANIES.PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1893.  
(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

Mogul	Thursday	Oct. 19.
Victoria	Thursday	Nov. 3.
Tacoma	Thursday	Dec. 12.
Mogul	Thursday	Jan. 2/94.
Victoria	Thursday	Jan. 23/94.

THE Steamship **MOGUL**, Captain Golden, sailing at Noon on THURSDAY, the 19th October, will proceed to VICTORIA, B.C., and TACOMA and SHANGHAI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA.

Through Bills of Lading issued to Japan, Pacific Coast Ports, and to Canadian and United States Ports.

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Belgia (via Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea and Yokohama)	Thursday, Oct. 26.	at 1 p.m.
Oceanic (via Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea and Yokohama)	Tuesday, Nov. 14.	at 1 p.m.
Oceanic (via Nagasaki, Kobe, Inland Sea and Yokohama)	Tuesday, Dec. 5.	at 1 p.m.

THE Steamship **BELGIC** will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, via NAGASAKI, KOBE, INLAND SEA and YOKOHAMA, on THURSDAY, the 26th October, at 1 p.m., connection being made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai.

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J. S. VAN BUREN,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, September 28, 1893. 1693

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## SHARE LIST—QUOTATIONS.—Oct. 9, 1893.

Stocks.	No. of Shares.	Value.	Pay- up.	Closing Quotations, Cash.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corp. New Issue	80,000	\$ 125	all	100 % prom., sellers
Bank of China, Japan and Straits, Ltd.	99,875	\$ 10	1/2	1 1/2 40 cents, sellers
National Bank of China, Limited.	1,250	\$ 1	1/2	1 1/2 20, sellers
Canton Insurance Office Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$ 250	5	\$ 115, buyers
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$ 83.33	2	\$ 80, sales and sellers
Sun Ching Insurance Co., Ltd.	5,000	\$ 200	5	\$ 115, buyers
Strait Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$ 100	20	\$ 111, buyers
Union Insurance Society Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$ 250	10	\$ 85, buyers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd.	8,000	\$ 100	1	\$ 80, sellers
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$ 10	1/2	\$ 79, sellers
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$ 25	1/2	\$ 192, buyers
Strait Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$ 1	1/2	\$ 177, sellers; \$ 164, buyers
DOCKERS.				
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$ 125	all	72 % prom., sales & buyers
STEARNS.				
China and Malacca S. S. Co., Ltd.	5,000	\$ 50	all	\$ 90, sellers
Douglas Steamship Co., Limited.	20,000	\$ 50	all	\$ 37, buyers
Indo-China S. S. Co., Ltd.	80,000	\$ 20	all	\$ 20 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. S. Co., Limited.	60,000	\$ 10	all	56 % dis., nom.
Steam Launch Company, Limited.	2,000	\$ 20	all	\$ 20, steady
China Mutual S. S. Co.	20,000	\$ 10	all	\$ 28, nom.
Do. (new issue).	20,000	\$ 10	all	\$ 1, 1/2
REFINERIES.				
China Sugar Company, Limited.	15,000	\$ 100	all	\$ 150, sales and sellers
Swan Sugar Company, Limited.	7,000	\$ 10	all	\$ 32 1/2, sellers
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H.K. & Kow. Wharf & Godown Co.	20,000	\$ 50	all	\$ 38, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Company, Limited.	2,600	\$ 100	\$ 37	\$ 42, sellers
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Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited.	50,000	\$ 100	\$ 5	\$ 54, sales
Kowloon Land and Building Com- pany, Limited.	6,000	\$ 50	\$ 3	\$ 7 1/2, sales
Hampshire Estate & Finance Co.	1,000	\$ 10	all	\$ 14, sales
West Point Building Co., Limited.	12,500	\$ 50	\$ 4	\$ 20, sellers
TRAMWAYS.				
H.K. High-Level Tramways Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$ 10	all	\$ 67 1/2, sellers
Jehu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.	15,000	\$ 5	all	\$ 55.25, sales
Punjoon Mining Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$ 4	\$ 3	\$ 57.75, sales and sellers
Société Française des Charbon- nages du Tonkin.	8,000	\$ 50	\$ 5	\$ 50, sales
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	15,000	\$ 10	all	25 cents, nom.
New Fortune Mines, Limited.	175,000	\$ 1	17 1/2	nom.
Sauv. Aust. Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$ 1	13 1/2	\$ 82, sales and sellers
Société Française des Houillères de Tournai.	8,000	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 37, nom.
PLANTING, ETC.				
China-Borneo Company, Ltd.	7,500	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 11, buyers
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited.	5,000	\$ 50	all	\$ 10, buyers
HOTELS, ETC.				
Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited.	4,000	\$ 50	\$ 5	nom.
Hongkong Hotel Company, Ltd.	5,000	\$ 50	\$ 5	\$ 15, sellers
3,600 shares issued.				
DISPENSARIES.				
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.	60,000	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 10 1/2, buyers; \$ 10 1/2, sellers
Dakin, Crutchfield & Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$ 5	\$ 1	\$ 11, sellers
LIGHTING.				
H.K. and China Gas Co., Limited.	7,000	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 10 1/2, buyers
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Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$ 50	\$ 2	\$ 22, buyers; \$ 23, sellers
Hongkong Brick & Cement Co., Ltd.	4,000	\$ 15	\$ 12.50	\$ 23, steady
MINING AND ORE.				
Campbell, Moore & Co., Limited.	1,200	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 4, nom.
Geo. Forster & Co., Limited.	5,000	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 15, buyers
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## Merchant Vessels in Hongkong Harbour.

Exclusives of late Arrivals and Departures reported to-day.

To facilitate finding the position of any vessel in the Harbour, the Anchorage is divided into eleven Sections, commencing at

Green Island. Vessels near the Hongkong shore are marked A, near the Kowloon shore K, and those in the body of the

Shipping or midway between each shore are marked C, in conjunction with the figures denoting the sections.

1. From Green Island to the Gas Works.
2. From Gas Works to Jardine's Wharf.
3. From Jardine's Wharf to the Harbour Master's Office.
4. From Harbour Master's Office to the P. and O. Co.'s Office.
5. From P. and O. Co.'s Office to Polder's Wharf.
6. From Polder's Wharf to the Naval Yard.
7. From Naval Yard to Blue Buildings.
8. From Blue Buildings to East Point.
9. From East Point to Kowloon Island to North Point.
10. Kowloon Wharves.
11. Jardine's Wharf.

Vessel's Name.	Flag and Reg.	Tons.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Macao.						
Activ	3 c Hyogo	Dan. str.	355	Oct. 3	Chinese	Haiphong, &c.
Amigo	1 b Benden	Ger. str.	771	July 10	Wielor & Co.	K'loon Do
Ask	6 c Revcock	Danish str.	682	July 9	A. R. Marty	To-morrow
Bantam	6 c Bergh	Dutch str.	1457	July 19	Laurie & Wegener	
Chalydra	3 c Oest.	Brit. str.	1574	Oct. 6	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Chian	6 c Ward	Brit. str.	6283	Oct. 6	P. M. S. S. Co.	San Francisco
Chusan	4 c Wondt	Ger. str.	623	Oct. 5	A. R. Marty	17th inst.
Deuteros	3 h Dinno	Ger. str.	1197	Oct. 9	Siemens & Co.	
Fooksang	3 h Wido	Brit. str.	931	Oct. 5	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Frogner	3 c Gulliksen	Norw. str.	719	Oct. 9	John Andrew	
H. Peng	3 h Waits	Chi. str.	645	Oct. 8	E. & M. Co.	
Fushun	3 h Lancaster	Chi. str.	1504	Oct. 9	M. S. N. Co.	To-morrow
Ghazee	8 c Scotland	Brit. str.	1764	Sept. 10	Dodwell, Carill & Co.	Sydney
Giava	5 c Sicini	Ital. str.	1818	Oct. 4	Carlowitz & Co.	Bombay, &c.
Glanartney	6 c McGregor	Brit. str.	1394	Oct. 9	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
Guthrie	6 c Helms	Brit. str.	1404	Oct. 5	Gibbs, Livingston & Co.	
Hanoi	6 c Moscatel	Port. str.	1538	Oct. 9	A. R. Marty	
Independent	5 c Schifer	Ger. str.	1125	July 11	Wielor & Co.	Haiphong
Jacob Diederichsen	5 c Hundewadt	Ger. str.	710	Oct. 7	Chinese	To-day
Leksang	8 c Moncur	Brit. str.	978	Oct. 5	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Shanghai
Mathildo	6 c Moos	Ger. str.	600	Oct. 4	Siemens & Co.	To-morrow
Mongkut	2 h Stotham	Brit. str.	559	Oct. 4	Yuen Fat Hong	To-morrow
Moray	5 c Thomson	Brit. str.	1411	Oct. 9	Dodwell, Carill & Co.	
Namying	2 h Hester	Brit. str.	943	Oct. 8	Chinese	Amoy
N. Sa. del Rosario	5 c Olvinga	Spain str.	406	Sept. 26	Brandao & Co.	To-morrow
Niubo	5 c Pfaff	Ger. str.	1666	Oct. 5	Siemens & Co.	Yokohama
Onfa	5 c Shaw	Brit. str.	1970	Oct. 7	Arnold, Karberg & Co.	To-day
Orakun	3 h Jenkins	Brit. str.	830	Oct. 9	Hop King Hong	To-morrow
Petra Chen Kiao	2 c Fowler	Brit. str.	1012	Oct. 9	Yuen Fat Hong	Swatow & Bangkok
Petra Chula Chom Kiao	2 h Morris	Brit. str.	1011	Oct. 7	Yuen Fat Hong	
Pilo Fial	1 c Stopani	Brit. tug.	161	.....	H. K. & W. Dock Co.	
Prian	5 c Thompson	Brit. str.	1802	Oct. 7	Butterfield & Swire	
Rio	3 c Davidson	Ger. str.	1009	Oct. 6	Wielor & Co.	
Saanghai	1 c Dawson	Brit. str.	2044	Oct. 9	P. & O. S. N. Co.	
Socotra	5 c Martin	Brit. str.	999	Oct. 7	Butterfield & Swire	
Suwat	6 c Bing	Ger. str.	630	Oct. 7	Melchers & Co.	
Taisang	3 c Hogg	Brit. str.	1508	Oct. 7	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Obefoc & N'chwang
Tainan	5 c Ramsay	Brit. str.	1265	Oct. 6	Butterfield & Swire	Shanghai
Vorona	10 Toque	Brit. str.	1870	Oct. 9	P. & O. S. N. Co.	To-day
Whanpos	5 c Dawson	Brit. str.	1198	Oct. 5	Butterfield & Swire	
Yuenang	4 c Waddilore	Brit. str.	1150	Oct. 5	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	Amoy & Manila
Sailing Vessels.						
Adolph	6 k Westergaard	Ger. bgo.	867	Aug. 21	Siemens & Co.	
Bittern	4 c Stronach	Br. bqtina	393	Sept. 17	Order	
Centennial	3 c Colord	Amer. sh.	1228	Sept. 6	Order	
Creedmore	6 k Kennedy	Brit. sh.	1448	Aug. 28	Siemens & Co.	
Elizabeth Albus	3 h Jones	Ger. bgo.	400	Oct. 5	Order	
Elise	8 h Lummer	Br. bqtina	500	Sept. 20	Melchers & Co.	
Emily F. Whitney	5 k Parsott	Amer. sh.	1249	Sept. 3	Order	
Fannie Skolfield	6 k Sherman	Amer. bgo.	1023	Oct. 4	Captain	
George Steison	5 k Murphy	Amer. sh.	1670	Aug. 6	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	
John Currier	5 c Laurence	Amer. sh.	1848	Oct. 4	Order	
John R. Kelly	5 k Chapman	Amer. sh.	2252	Sept. 1	Master	
Lucey & Nichols	5 k Nichols	Amer. bgo.	1330	Aug. 3	Melchers & Co.	
Nam Shun Sing	9 c Lok Li Tong	Chi. 3-m.s.	368	Aug. 3	Yong Kee & Co.	
Oran	5 c Christiansen	Ger. bgo.	461	Oct. 5	Captain	
Somali	5 k Morgan	Brit. sh.	3532	May 17	Gilman & Co.	